



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

32 CFR Part 706

Certifications and Exemptions Under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DoN) is amending its certifications and exemptions under the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS), to reflect that the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (DAJAG) (Admiralty and Maritime Law) has determined that USS SOMERSET (LPD 25) is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot fully comply with certain provisions of the 72 COLREGS without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this rule is to warn

mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

DATES: This rule is effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] and is applicable beginning April 18, 2013.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lieutenant Jocelyn Loftus-Williams, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Admiralty Attorney, (Admiralty and Maritime Law), Office of the Judge Advocate General, Department of the Navy, 1322 Patterson Ave., SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066, telephone 202-685-5040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the authority granted in 33 U.S.C. 1605, the DoN amends 32 CFR Part 706.

This amendment provides notice that the DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law), under authority delegated by the Secretary of the Navy, has certified that USS SOMERSET (LPD 25) is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot fully comply with the following specific provisions of 72 COLREGS without interfering with its special function as a naval ship: Rule 27 (a)(i) and (b)(i), pertaining to the placement of

all-round task lights in a vertical line; Annex I, paragraph 3(a), pertaining to the horizontal distance between the forward and after masthead lights; and Annex I, paragraph 2(k) as described in Rule 30 (a)(i), pertaining to the vertical separation between anchor lights. The DAJAG (Admiralty and Maritime Law) has also certified that the lights involved are located in closest possible compliance with the applicable 72 COLREGS requirements.

Moreover, it has been determined, in accordance with 32 CFR Parts 296 and 701, that publication of this amendment for public comment prior to adoption is impracticable, unnecessary, and contrary to public interest since it is based on technical findings that the placement of lights on this vessel in a manner differently from that prescribed herein will adversely affect the vessel's ability to perform its military functions.

List of Subjects in 32 CFR Part 706

Marine safety, Navigation (water), and Vessels.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, amend part 706 of title 32 of the CFR as follows:

PART 706--CERTIFICATIONS AND EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE  
INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA,  
1972

1. The authority citation for part 706 continues to  
read:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1605.

2. Section 706.2 is amended as follows:

A. In Table Three by adding, in alpha numerical order,  
by vessel number, an entry for USS SOMERSET (LPD 25); and

B. In Table Four, paragraph 20, by adding, in alpha  
numerical order, by vessel number, an entry for USS  
SOMERSET (LPD 25); and

C. In Table Five by adding, in alpha numerical order,  
by vessel number, an entry for USS SOMERSET (LPD 25).

§ 706.2 Certifications of the Secretary of the Navy under  
Executive Order 11964 and 33 U.S.C. 1605.

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Table Three

Vessel	No.	Masthead lights arc of visibility; rule 21(a)	Side lights arc of visibility; rule 21(b)	Stern light arc of visibility; rule 21(c)	Side lights distance inboard of ship's sides in meters 3 (b) Annex 1	Stern light, distance forward of stern in meters; rule 21 (c)	Forward anchor light, height above hull in meters; 2 (k) Annex 1	Anchor lights relation -ship of aft light to forward light in meters 2 (k) Annex 1
* * * * * USS SOMERSET * * * * *	LPD 25	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--	1.64 below

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Table Four

20. \* \* \*

Vessel	Number	Angle in degrees of task lights off vertical as viewed from directly ahead or astern
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USS SOMERSET	LPD 25	10

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Table Five

Vessel	No.	Masthead lights not over all other lights and obstructions. Annex I, sec. 2(f)	Forward masthead light not in forward quarter of ship. Annex I, sec. 3(a)	After mast- head light less than 1/2 ship's length aft of forward masthead light. Annex I, sec. 3(a)	Percentage horizontal separation attained
* * * * * USS SOMERSET * * * * *	LPD 25	-----	-----	X	71

APPROVED: April 18\_\_, 2013

A. B. FISCHER  
Commander, JAGC, U.S. Navy  
Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate  
General (Admiralty and Maritime Law)

Dated: April 25, 2013

C. K. CHIAPPETTA  
Lieutenant Commander  
Office of the Judge Advocate General  
U.S. Navy  
Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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